



# NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD  
OF EQUALIZATION**  
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**BILL LEONARD**  
Member, BOE  
Second District

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **LEONARD ANNOUNCES BOE NOW ACCEPTS VISA FOR SALES AND USE TAX PAYMENTS**

Bill Leonard, Member of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE), today announced that Visa is now accepted by the BOE for sales and use tax payments. MasterCard, Discover/Novus and American Express are also accepted.

Since introducing payments via credit cards in 1998, BOE has continued to create convenient reporting and payment methods for its taxpayers. In fiscal year 2004-05, it received 16,762 payments via credit cards, generating over \$53 million in revenue. Credit card payments can be made by telephone or over the Internet.

Taxpayers currently owing sales and use tax may pay with a credit card unless required to do so through other means, such as Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). A convenience fee totaling 2.5 percent of the transaction amount is charged by the processing vendor.

This move comes as part of the BOE's greater effort to improve the electronic services available to California taxpayers. Other services – including an additional e-filing option – will be available later this year.

For more information, visit the BOE website at [www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov) and see "Electronic Services."

Bill Leonard, of Sacramento/Ontario, was elected to his first term as Second District Member of the State Board of Equalization in 2002. Prior to his election, he served in the State Assembly (1978-1988, 1996-2002) and in the State Senate (1988-1996).

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board collects more than \$44 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes.

Other Board Members include Betty T. Yee of San Francisco, Acting Member, First District; Claude Parrish of Long Beach, Third District; Chairman John Chiang of Los Angeles, Fourth District and State Controller Steve Westly.

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